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LOUISIANA

MRS. MORTON ELECTED PRESIDENT-ELECT OF A.L.A.

Vol. 23, No. 2

Summer, 1960

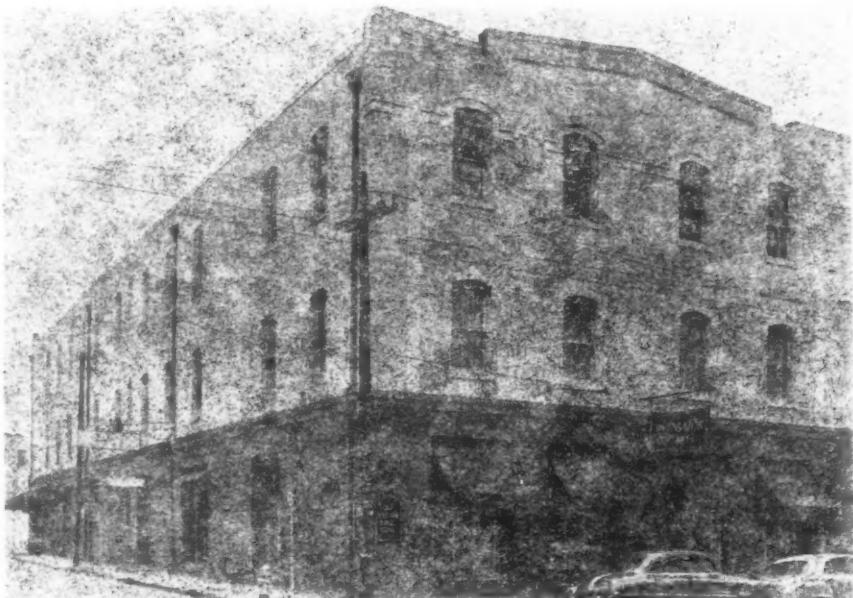
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THE BULLETIN

of the

LOUISIANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 23

NUMBER 2

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The articles which appear in the *Bulletin* express the views of the authors, and
not necessarily the opinion or the policy of the editorial board.

The *Bulletin* is published March, June, September and December. Address all communications for publication to Kenneth E. Toombs, L.S.U. Library, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Address all advertising and business communications to the business manager, Lucille Arceneaux, Lafayette Parish Library, Lafayette, La. Subscription rate to non-members is \$2.00 a year; single copies 55 cents.

The President's Page

By

JANE ELLEN CARSTENS



Jane Ellen Carstens

It just doesn't seem possible that the terms of office for your present Executive Board will end very shortly. As I look back on it, I realize that it has been a full and happy year. Examined microscopically, it has been uneventful in the full sense of the word, but I hope it has been a fruitful one for the growth of the Association.

New committees and new chairmen of

standing committees have brought about interesting developments. These were made known to those of you who attended the convention in March, and appear in the secretary's resume of convention proceedings in this issue of the Bulletin.

It is difficult for me to be objective about the convention. I might be inclined to think it was the best we ever had! But then—I know that each president feels the same way—when it is "her" convention. However, it was a fine meeting, I think, and, as I stated at the closing session, there were many, many persons who helped to make it so. The convention chairman and the various sub-committees did an admirable job in every respect. The program was top-notch—speakers, settings, meals, social gatherings, visits with friends—all contributed to a lovely three days.

The old and new Executive Boards meet in Baton Rouge on June 4. On July 1, Kate Wallach takes over as president. I feel confident that the association will prosper under her leadership, and I hope she has a fine year!

Thank you. It was fun!

LOUISIANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS, 1959

President	Miss Jane Ellen Carstens, Hamilton Laboratory School, Southwestern La. Institute, Lafayette
First Vice-President	Miss Kate Wallach, Law Library, L.S.U., Baton Rouge
Second Vice-President	Miss Jewell Moore, Iberville Parish Library, Plaquemine
Secretary	Mrs. Alice Alben, Centenary College, Shreveport
Treasurer	Miss Willie Mae Seab, Caldwell Parish Library, Columbia
Parliamentarian	Miss Loma Knighten, Stephens Memorial Library, Southwestern La. Institute, Lafayette

The President-elect's Report

By

KATE WALLACH



Kate Wallach

As your membership chairman, I prayed for as many green slips as there were last year and a few more. We gained 135 new members to-date. How can we keep their interest? Not all can meet with us at convention time. We cannot instill a desire to belong by sending out an inviting letter. The "old timers" have to make personal contacts with prospective and new members in their cities and towns and parishes, and on the strength of their belief in our working together in the LLA, bring the prospective members into the Association and keep them in it. That is the only way for us to remain strong and to grow. To all of you who have helped during the year in building up our membership, the membership committee expresses its thanks and appreciation.

As your incoming president, I am particularly concerned with a general and some specific problems. The general problem is that confronting any board which acts on the basis of committee recommendations. The committees have a year to prepare their reports, but often the members do not get together until convention time. A whole

year's work is then discussed in a few hours and presented to the Board at a time when it cannot study the report, and neither can the membership to which it has to be presented, without adequate preparation on the part of the Board members. There is a remedy for next year's action on some problems which will be brought before you.

This issue of the *Bulletin* contains the minutes of our business meetings and the next one will carry the report of the Expansion Committee. The Treasurer's reports are also published in the *Bulletin*. During the next year, every member should be concerned with and study the specific problems raised at this last convention. These are: changes in the procedure for Modisette awards; creation of honorary memberships, raising of dues and appointment of a permanent part-time executive secretary.

The Modisette Award Committee undertakes the constant revision of the rating sheets. One problem the Committee cannot solve alone is, that so few libraries participate in the awards program. Please send me your suggestions for desired changes.

I also invite your comments on honorary memberships which I shall gladly convey to Sue Hefley, chairman of the Status Committee.

Compare the dues structure of other associations contained in the report of the Expansion Committee with ours and write to me on how you would solve the dues problem. A flat increase or a graded scale? Do we need a mail ballot, so that every member can be heard and not only those voting at the next annual meeting? We do not want to lose any member because of higher dues. Please speak up before the next convention.

If one person were in charge of all association records and supplies, we could give much better services as an association, to our members as well as to all other interested

(Continued on Page 66)

Professional Portrait



Mrs. Elizabeth Welker

The old saying "good things come in small packages" perfectly describes Mrs. Welker. "Welkie," as she is called by her close friends, is not quite five feet tall, but she has not found this to be a handicap in her work. For she has a very enviable record of sick leave at L.S.U.; in her many years of employment there, she has missed less than one week due to illness.

Elizabeth Welker was born in St. Louis, Missouri, and it was there that her library career began. Her first position, which she held for a number of years, was head of the order department and assistant to the librarian at Washington University. She joined the L.S.U. staff in November, 1938. Supervising the checking, sorting, and processing of the Richard T. Ely collection was the first task undertaken by Mrs. Welker at L.S.U. This collection includes 7,500 volumes, 10,000 pamphlets, and more than 200 boxes of manuscripts among which are rare deeds and documents illustrating land tenures in England from the year 1500 to the present date. Seventy shelves of unbound periodicals and documents are also part of this extensive collection.

With the completion of this enormous task, Mrs. Welker served as Bibliographer of the library for several years. She next held the position of acting order librarian for two years; then in 1946 she became public documents librarian, the position she now holds. L.S.U. library directors have long been enthusiastic about Mrs. Welker's devotion to her duties, and Dr. Sidney B. Smith, the present director, comments that, "Mrs. Welker has worked faithfully for the past fifteen years to improve the documents collection, until today it is a major depository of important source material." Mrs. Welker has been rewarded for her years of work by the increased use which is made of the United States and United Nations documents. She is untiring in her efforts to locate obscure document information for both students and faculty. It is not uncommon to hear one of them say, "Who will help me with my research in documents when that little grey haired lady retires?"

Mrs. Welker will retire in August of this year. It is quite difficult to realize that she has reached the age of retirement, for her energy and stamina are equal to that of a person much younger than she is. "Welkie" will not only be remembered for her efficient handling of documents but also for the many kindnesses and remembrances which she has always given to her colleagues. Birthdays, holidays, and illnesses were always remembered with cards, gifts, and calls.

Her energy is not exhausted by her work, for she still finds time to participate in A.L.A., L.L.A., Baton Rouge Library Club, and the L.S.U. staff association. The women's organization of her church, the First Presbyterian Church of Baton Rouge, also has her active participation.

Her greatest personal interest is her two grandchildren, David and Judith, who are now in College. Even though she plans to remain in Louisiana after her retirement, she will now be free to go to St. Louis for extended visits with them.

The Newspaper and the Library

By

DONALD M. EWING

Associate Editor, "Shreveport Times"

(Address delivered at the L.L.A. Awards Luncheon, March 25, 1960, Bayou De Siard Country Club, Monroe, Louisiana.)

The subject given me was the newspaper and the library. As originally voiced to me, or at least as I originally understood it, I thought someone said, what a newspaper expects of the library. It seemed to me that I should change that and say what a library has a right to expect of a newspaper. In most instances, libraries have not been getting the support from newspapers that they deserve, either in their financial support or sometimes in support against unwarranted criticism that has come to them. The library is the heart of the city's culture. It's part of the public conscience.

A city without a good library is simply like a home without books. It was only 20 years ago in Shreveport, which boasts of being a cultural city, that we defeated a tax to improve our libraries. We have since changed that and I think that any library tax presented to the people now would be passed automatically just as we automatically passed school taxes, bond issues for school buildings and things of that kind.

The librarian has a tremendous task. She is necessarily, by virtue of her position, a leader, somewhat of an example you might say, in the culture of a city itself. Unfortunately, he or she must be limited tremendously by budgets, and unfortunately, budgets have been lamentably small. In Louisiana, as well as in other parts of the country, the library boards have all too often been more interested in having their names on stationery than in understanding their proper functions. But we have been getting out of that.

The librarian in selecting books necessarily becomes somewhat of a censor, and censorship of any kind, of course necessarily leads to ignorance. Ignorance of the people as to themselves, their community, their country. The librarian can only be a selector

of books. As a selector, the librarian does become somewhat of a censor, and it places a tremendous burden on the shoulders of the librarian and those who assist her. In many places these days, we find censorship a paramount topic of discussion. I'm not going to argue with those who say that mere selection by a library is in itself censorship so why should I oppose censorship that you have to have. That is just a ring-around-the-rosy argument. Of course, there is censorship in selection.

Russia barred from the American Library in the American Exhibition in Moscow various American books such as the *World Almanac*, some of the writings of Herbert Hoover, and things of that kind. When you get into that kind of selection or that kind of censorship, you are simply encouraging ignorance and doing everything you can to make it grow.

A library, of course, is filled with propaganda because everything written on any subject controversial and usually even on a non-controversial subject is in some way propaganda. But the library must, of course, be a repository of knowledge and thus of all types of knowledge and of all sides of all issues.

To me a library, the perfect library, which we cannot have for many reasons, but the perfect library should be a literary cafeteria from which people may select what they wish, leave what they wish, like or dislike what they select without regard to the likings of anybody else. The perfect library would have on its shelves everything ever printed or written or otherwise published in favor of complete, private, social, religious, and public integration just as it would have everything on the other side in favor of segregation. It would have everything dealing with every side of every religious issue, every-

thing authoritative, not trash, of course. And everything dealing with every side of every political issue.

Now, all these things would have to be covered fully, and there would be no regard whatever to any effort at censorship. For book burning by Hitler, refusal of the czars to permit the public even to enter libraries, and suppression of standard American books such as the *World Almanac* in the recent exhibition in Russia, all of these things are of the same stripe. They are totalitarianism, totalitarianistic, in their intent and in their purpose. They are all one in the same and they are one in the same with the current issues in parts of the South today to bar certain children's books because they happen to deal with both negroes and whites and thus are presented by some people as advocating inter-racial marriage or integration and with some efforts in the North to bar such fine classics as *Uncle Remus* and *Tom Sawyer* and *Huckleberry Finn* because they supposedly place the negro in an inferior position.

Why not bar the Declaration of Independence with its castigation of the king of England on the ground that repeating that today or reading it in our schools would be disrespectful to the present monarchical system in England, to the present king and the present queen. The chief thing in books when it comes to censorship and selection is the difference between a book dealing with situations and subject matter which may not be suitable for children and the manner in which those situations and the subject matter are presented. In Shreveport a newspaper reporter told the Chief of Police that *Peyton Place* was obscene and without ever having known the name of the book he barred it from sale. The only thing more stupid than barring *Peyton Place* from sale is to let a police chief decide to bar anything. Certainly I don't want any police chief anywhere, and that is no reflection on any of them, telling me or my family what I can read. But there is a vast difference between *Peyton Place*, for example, and its vulgar situations and the distribution of filth and smut simply for the sake of filth and smut.

I think you will find that with one exception, all of the daily newspapers in the state of Louisiana are very strongly in favor of freedom of people to read and to have whatever they may wish to have in their public libraries. At the same time, they are vigorously opposed to filth, smut, and the distribution of it through the mails and otherwise. There is a vast difference between the right of people to read and the right of people to obtain knowledge and to have it available to them in a pool, a repository, such as a public library, and simply barring anything that happens to have bad words in it.

To show you just how far this silly and ridiculous situation of trying to bar children's books, because they deal with negroes and whites, can go and how far the whole idea of barring many children's books could be carried, I asked our librarian to send me over a book the other day, any book of children's Greek Mythology and she sent me *Greek Myths*, by Olivia E. Coolidge, a standard reference. I don't know whether it is the same book that I read as a child but I was deeply interested in Greek Mythology and found the stories beautiful. But all of those stories, if you wanted to take them and twist them, as some of our critics now are twisting these children's black and white, and other picture books, here is what you could get. I'll take a couple of these Greek stories and translate them into a modern newspaper editorial in a newspaper which thinks that even the integration of black type on white paper is something evil, and let you see what it would be. The editorial would go something on this order:

The Daily Dictator learned today that the children's section of the local public library includes a volume of short stories which range through homosexuality and homosexual murder and illegitimate children born to negro mistresses of white fathers. One story in this book, which is available for your little girl or little boy to read at will tells of two men in love with a boy. So intense did the rivalry of the two adults become that during a game of horse shoes one of the men tried to hit

the other in the head with the horse shoe, but missed him and hit the boy and killed him. Still another story in this volume tells of two white men who had negro mistresses, each bearing a male child. These two boys grew up in intense rivalry, each claiming that his father was greater than the other's father. My pops is bigger than yours. So upset was one of these two little children by the situation that he sought out the man supposed to be his father and demanded proof of parentage. A series of events resulted which caused the boy to set a fire, destroying millions and millions of dollars worth of farm crops, housing, and other property, and losing his own life in the holocaust. Of course, these stories (going on with this mythical editor) are told in the most popular language and there is no attempt in the phaseology to emphasize sexual angles or inter-racial angles but the overtones of inter-racial immorality and of inter-racial children and possible homosexuality and murder are all there. Children are smart these days, and it won't take long for a kid to catch on to what was really going on. The Mayor and the Library Board should order all of these books off of the library shelves and if the librarian does not comply he should be run out of town on a rail.

These are simply two mythical stories. One is the story of Apollo and Zephyrus, the west wind, who had a great affection for Hyacinthus, the boy, and they played points or horse shoes together. One of the men, Zephyrus, the west wind, decided to blow the horse shoe against Apollo and kill him but his blowing wasn't very good and the horse shoe hit Hyacinthus and it broke his neck and his neck dropped over his breast as he died and from that we have the flower the Hyacinth with a white drooping floret.

The other is the story of Apollo and a woman named Clymene. The son of Apollo and Clymene was Phaeton. Clymene told her child that Apollo was his father, the great Apollo, and the child boasted of it quite frequently until he ran into an equally illigit-

imate child of Zeus, the top God of all the Gods and the two children got into quite a squabble as to whose daddy was the greatest. Clymene and Apollo's son talked to his mother, and decided to seek out Apollo and get the truth which he did and Apollo acknowledged the parentage. This took place in Ethiopia, so you see the race and nativity of the women concerned. The boy then asked permission to drive Apollo's chariot to the sun, I won't go on with it, but the chariot upset and set the earth on fire and everything was destroyed. But the story could be twisted just exactly as some of these other stories are being twisted today.

If you think I have exaggerated in this, let me call attention to the actual book which most of you know, *Black and White* which was written in 1944, 16 years ago, and which deals with a black man and a white lady who eventually found happiness in marriage and this is described by the critics as an advocate of inter-racial marriage. It's pure symbolism based on pure myth.

In the old days, far back, centuries, thousands of years ago, two tribes settled in Wales. One tall and one short and both dark, and both perhaps from Europe, and the little dark people of Wales became mostly the coal miners. In this book, one of these dark persons falls in love with the snow on the mountain in the distance. And the symbolism is that here is the undesirable, dirty, filthy man and the beautiful and unattainable snow lady on the mountains. And the undesirable, as throughout all history, yearns for the unattainable. That is simply the story of life itself, of mankind, and of the history of the world. The seeking of the unattainable by the undesirable. The whole thing is a book to be read to little children, the undesirable and the unattainable, the soot and dirt and the pure snow were brought together and that's all there is to it.

Yet they will tell you that this book should not be read to children, should not be available to children. Most of those I have found to have such opinions are childless. It's rather amazing to see the number of people who tell parents what to do about

the children when, unfortunately, perhaps, they have no children of their own and no first hand knowledge.

Every child at a certain age very early seeks to marry everything around him. I remember well when my son first was going to marry me, then his mother, and then our dog, and then the postman. And his playmate across the street was going to marry their cat. We told them to go ahead so our dog named Duchess became Mrs. Duchess, and Miss Minnie the Cat became Mrs. Minnie the Cat, and they were so referred to by the two children. Now it just happens that Duchess was a black cocker spaniel, so I suppose I was teaching my child something terrible in permitting him to do that.

Now more seriously, or more importantly at the moment, is what is this censorship. First of all, censorship and freedom of the press are not confined to newspapers. Freedom of the press is simply the freedom of the right of anybody to publish anything in any way so as to inform you. Whether it's by word of mouth, by billboard, or by a pamphlet from a store or anything else. Far back before our country was even dreamed of, back in 1275 AD to be specific, a law was passed in England abolishing or controlling freedom of the press, freedom to read, freedom of knowledge. That was 200 years before any printing press was ever operated in England and yet it was called even then, freedom of the press. That was 350 years before any actual newspaper ever was printed in England.

That statute was fought over for years, for generations, for centuries in fact, and it came on down into the United States. England through the Magna Charta finally altered it and granted freedom of the people to read and write, to know, and talk to each other about any subject they wished and to express any opinion they wished. And it was put into our Constitution in the Bill of Rights with James Madison, known as the father of the Constitution, as the father also of that first amendment.

It was put in there specifically, among other things, to grant to people the right to read what they wanted to read, and to

know what they wanted to know. It's a right that you don't find in a totalitarian country, a right that you can only find in a free country, a country with a free government.

James Madison, father of the Constitution, wrote at that time, "knowledge will forever govern ignorance and a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power knowledge gives. A popular government without popular information or the means of acquiring it is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy or both."

The greater the field of subject matter covered by the books on the shelves of your library and the broader the scope of coverage of each individual subject, the closer it will come to fulfilling the functions of a public library in maintaining the basic public freedoms that constitute the difference between the democratic nation and one of totalitarianists. It is a very heavy burden that rests on your shoulders. You cannot carry it alone. You have many handicaps.

No one knows better than I that we are only coming out of the darkness now in this state intellectually from the public standpoint. That we are only beginning to realize that school boards, parish library boards, must be made up of people of intellect and also people who understand, you might say, the business operation of such institutions.

Usually your public school system, for example, is the biggest locally owned institution in your parish, the biggest financially in its payroll, and in the cost of operations. We have in many parishes a recognition of these facts and improvement in the caliber of library board members. One such gentleman is to be honored here in a few minutes who well deserves the honor.

The press has a tremendous part in supporting you, but you also have to stand by the press and be willing to call on it for help. There will be times when you won't get it, and I fully recognize that you can't take the steps that in many cases would cost you your job. But at the same time you can be a leader in trying to make your people understand that the library is part of the public conscience, part of the public spirit, part of the community welfare.

What the Library Means to New Orleans

(Remarks by WILLIAM G. ZETZMANN, *Chairman of the Board, Zetz Seven-Up Bottling Company, Inc., on the occasion of the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Library League of New Orleans.*)

Ever so often, a good business man takes stock of his assets. Also, this is a wise thing for the citizens of a community to do, in order to determine whether adequate growth and progress are being made—and if not, why? It is well to take stock, not only of the *economic progress* of our city—in terms of population growth, payrolls, wholesale and retail sales, port tonnage, car unloadings, bank clearings, per capita spendable money income, building construction, and other basic economic indices of community growth and health; but, also we should take stock of our community's *social progress*—in providing better government, better transportation and communication, better recreational facilities, parks and playgrounds, bigger and better hospitals, more and better schools, and adequate public library facilities.

In the final analysis, the greatest asset to any community is the caliber of its people—their level of education, their ability to think, and their willingness to work together for the common good.

Most people do not realize the great strides that have been made, during the past 25 years, in providing public library facilities in New Orleans. We have advanced from the inadequate building at Lee Circle and only five branches, to a new, modern Library building in the Civic Center, with eleven branches, an archives department, two bookmobiles, four library "stations"—and *the circulation of books has more than doubled during this period.*

Much of the credit for this progress should go to the LIBRARY LEAGUE OF NEW ORLEANS, a volunteer group, who,

for a quarter-of-a-century, against discouraging odds, have carried on the fight for adequate public library facilities—and, to the MEMBERS OF THE LIBRARY BOARD, the civic group so ably headed by MR. CHARLES G. SMITHER and his predecessor, MR. CHARLES F. BUCK, JR. Also, to our Library Director, MR. JOHN HALL JACOBS, who, for the past 22 years, has effectively administered and guided the development of our city's library program.

The basic organization pattern and a capable staff have been developed and, a new, modern Main Library Building has been achieved. The "great-library" program can now move forward!

The new Main Library Building should be adequate for the next 25 years, or more; but, if our city's public library system is to compare favorably with that of other large cities of this country, we will have to provide for adequate book stocks, special services, and more branch libraries as our city grows.

As a business man, I heartily approve of the "Business and Science Department" that has been established in the new library building. It ties in with the growing industrialization of the New Orleans Area and the "needs of the times." It is a milestone in the development of our city's library program; and symbol of the fact that New Orleans has ceased to be "the city that care forgot."

Not only is our Public Library a *cultural asset*, but also a *business asset* to our community. May it grow in stature and service!



Past Presidents of LLA at Monroe, March 25, 1960. They are grouped in order of their term of office. Seated left to right: Culver, Shortess, Abramson, Baird, Aldrich (Schwing), Francis (Morton), Moore, Farrell, Knighton. Standing left to right: Hefley, Jacobs, Watson, Flanders, Peters, Cazayoux, Cammack, Ready, Stau, McMullan, and Hanks. Only four living past presidents are not included. They are: Mrs. Carl Bauman, Miss Mary Harris, Mr. W. D. Postell, and Dr. Garland Taylor.

Louisiana Library Association

Meeting Dates	Place of Meeting	Presiding Officer
December 10, 1909	New Orleans	Hon. George Hathaway, Jennings
April 29, 1910	Alexandria	Special meeting—no officer elected
April 21-22, 1911	Baton Rouge	Mr. William Beer, New Orleans
April 11-12, 1913	Donaldsonville	Mr. J. R. Thornton, Alexandria
Meetings After Reorganization		
April 6, 1925	Shreveport	Dr. E. L. Stephens, Lafayette
January 6-7, 1926	Lafayette	Dr. E. L. Stephens, Lafayette
April 25-26, 1927	Alexandria	Dr. E. L. Stephens, Lafayette
Oct. 21-Nov. 3, 1928	Baton Rouge	Mrs. Lois W. Henderson, Shreveport
April 18-19, 1929	New Orleans	Miss E. M. Culver, Baton Rouge
May 1-2, 1930	Monroe	Mr. Robert J. Usher, New Orleans
April 30-May 1, 1931	Lake Charles	Miss Lois F. Shortess, Baton Rouge
April 25-30, 1932	New Orleans	Mrs. Carl S. Bauman, New Orleans
1933	No Meeting	
April 20-21, 1934	Baton Rouge	Mrs. L. Williamson, Monroe
April 11-12, 1935	Baton Rouge	Mr. J. O. Modisette, Jennings
March 26-28, 1936	New Orleans	Mr. J. O. Modisette, Jennings
April 22-24, 1937	Shreveport	Miss Mary W. Harris, Minden
April 7-9, 1938	Alexandria	Mr. James A. McMillen, Baton Rouge
April 27-29, 1939	Natchitoches	Miss Debora R. Abramson, Baton Rouge
April 25-27, 1940	Lafayette	Mrs. Ruth Baird, Minden
May 1-3, 1941	Lake Charles	Miss Ella V. Aldrich, Baton Rouge
April 16-18, 1942	Monroe	Miss Florrinell Francis, Baton Rouge
April 6, 1943	New Orleans	Mrs. Kathrine W. Moore, Many
April 20, 1944	Baton Rouge	Miss Sallie Farrell, Baton Rouge
1945	No Meeting	Miss Sallie Farrell, Baton Rouge Cancelled by Office of Defense Transportation
March 29-30, 1946	Shreveport	Miss Loma Knighten, Lafayette
March 13-15, 1947	Alexandria	Miss Sue Hefley, Baton Rouge
April 22-24, 1948	Monroe	Mr. J. H. Jacobs, New Orleans
April 2-4, 1949	Lake Charles	Mr. Eugene P. Watson, Natchitoches
March 30-31, April 1, 1950	Baton Rouge	Mr. W. D. Postell, New Orleans
April 12-14, 1951	Alexandria	Miss Frances Flanders, Monroe
March 13-15, 1952	Shreveport	Miss Evelyn Peters, New Orleans
May 7-9, 1953	New Orleans	Dr. Garland Taylor, New Orleans
March 25-27, 1954	Monroe	Vivian Cazayoux, Baton Rouge
March 24-26, 1955	Baton Rouge	Elizabeth Cammack, Lake Providence
March 22-24, 1956	Alexandria	Mrs. Ruth C. Reedy, Lake Charles
March 7-9, 1957	New Orleans	Mrs. Dorothy B. Skau, New Orleans
March 20-22, 1958	Shreveport	T. N. McMullan, Baton Rouge
March 19-21, 1959	Baton Rouge	Mrs. Rubie M. Hanks, Winnfield
March 24-26, 1960	Monroe	Jane Ellen Carstens, Lafayette
March 16-18, 1961	New Orleans	Kate Wallach, Baton Rouge

What Did You Bring?

By

MRS. RAYMOND A. YOUNG

*President
American Association of Library Trustees*

(Highlights of address made at L.L.A. Trustees' Section Meeting at Monroe, March 25, 1960.)

Harking back to the "roof-raisings" of pioneer days, Mrs. Young pointed out that in these early community efforts, everyone brought the best he possessed in the way of tools, food, and labor, and placed his contributions at the service of the work. In the same manner, she called upon library trustees to bring of their best to the service of the public library movement.

Prominent among the factors making up a good library trustee, Mrs. Young placed curiosity, explaining that she meant intellectual curiosity, which would ask questions as to how the library worked, what the library needed, how a good librarian should be chosen, and what made up the secure background of the public library in local and national legislation. Mrs. Young urged her audience to use their curiosity to find out these things, explore situations, and thereby chart solutions to existing problems.

Second in the list of good trustee characteristics, Mrs. Young asked for a healthy discontent with inadequacy, and thereby a rejection of complacency and conformity. Stating that "discontent with the imperfections of things as they are will overthrow any apathy of complacency or conformity," Mrs. Young pointed out that such discontent "seeks to supplant things as they are with progress, liberation, and ultimate improvement."

Urging her audience to display the quality of what she termed "the gentle lubricant of willingness," Mrs. Young emphasized that an important facet of this characteristic

was willingness to learn, or, as she expressed it, teachableness. Mrs. Young said that library trustees could learn more about trusteeship through membership in their state trustee associations, the national organization, through the AALT-sponsored "Handbook for Trustees," and through local, regional, and national meetings and workshops.

Part of the trustee's willingness to learn, Mrs. Young continued, should be evinced by his willingness to communicate, to share with others what he knew, and to contribute the knowledge he had to trustee organizations, through personal contacts and participation in workshops and panel discussions.

Reminding her audience of the pioneer spirit which had built America, Mrs. Young called upon them to generate the same will to build, both in a physical and a mental sense, in service of their libraries. To this, she added, should be added the capacity to care deeply about the welfare of libraries.

Summing up her suggested answers to the question, "What Did You Bring?" Mrs. Young asked library trustees to bring to the service of libraries, most importantly, themselves. Stating that the individual personalities and endowments of the trustees were their most valuable contributions, Mrs. Young added, "Responsibility for the libraries of America makes heavy demands. It uses up one's time, energies, thoughts—and often money. But, in looking back, to what better purpose could these be spent, than in service of our libraries?"

Classic Louisiana French Folksongs

By

HARRY OSTER

Assistant Professor of English

Louisiana State University

A couple of generations ago in Louisiana the classic French folk tradition was still very much alive in the southern and southwest portions of the state in many communities where French was the dominant and often only language spoken. At that time, as had been true since the immigrations into Louisiana from France and Acadie, songs and stories were an important source of entertainment, a functional part of a way of life.

During the past thirty years, however, French folk culture has been declining rapidly because of a variety of forces. When the public schools came into general existence, many of them forbade the speaking of French on the premises. The purpose was to force children to speak English. The widespread building of roads during the nineteen thirties brought the community into more easy contact with the forces of Americanization. The rise of the phonograph, radio, motion pictures, and most recently television has had the double effect of changing the tastes of Louisiana Frenchmen in the direction of conformity and substituting mass produced, homogeneous entertainment for the old folk dances and songs. In addition, the return of veterans of World War II after years elsewhere, the discovery of oil on many farms in southwest Louisiana, industrialization and the consequent influx of executives and workers from other states have been upsetting the ancient ways which were so traditionally a part of an agricultural way of life.

These sections of Louisiana are now going through the stages of transition which less isolated non-English speaking folk immigrants normally begin to pass through as

soon as they arrive in the United States. The first arrivals, for the most part, speak only their native language fluently, in some cases never learn English. Their children who are born and raised in the United States are likely to be bilingual, but to be somewhat ashamed of the accents and old-world ways of dress and action of their parents. The members of this group usually try to discard their background and traditions as quickly as they can in favor of becoming typical American citizens. The third generation is likely to have neither a knowledge of the language of the grandparents nor an interest in hearing their songs and stories. At this point the stream of tradition has dried up.

Since citizens of Louisiana French backgrounds now fall roughly into these three categories, ancient French folksongs (and other types of French folklore) are now in their last generation of life. Since the children and grandchildren, who formerly would have been an enthusiastic and receptive audience, now give their attention to the entertainment provided by the mass media, the old people seldom have an audience. Thus their songs are no longer functional as entertainment.

Nevertheless, with some persistence one can still find rich stores of French folksongs of considerable antiquity, sometimes in an excellent state of preservation. From my collection on tape of some three hundred French folksongs recorded in Louisiana here are examples of a tragic ballad, a comic ballad, a lyric, and a drinking song.

Jean Paul Davide of New Roads, who was eighty-six at the time, recorded for me this excellent variant of "Le flambeau d'amour" in 1958:

1. C'est une fille de quinze ans,
Ah! très chargée d'avantages.
Son père l'a mis' dans la tour
Parc' il craint qu'on lui fasse la cour.
2. "Monsieur, si vous voulez venir,
Je metterai flambeaux d'enseigne.
Quand ce flambeau va s'allumer,
Vous pouvez venir sans craint' de rien."
3. Quand-t-c'est venu sur les minuits,
Le beau flambeau d'amour s'allume.
Le beau galant a marché jusqu'à jour
Sans pouvoir se rend' au pied de la tour.
4. Quand-t-c'est venu sur le matin-jour,
La bell' s'a mise à la fenêtre;
Elle aperçoit son amant au trepas'.
5. "Ah! mon amant, mon cher amant,
C'est mon coeur qui caus' tes peines.
S'il me faudrait quitter mon sang
Pour fair' ressiter mon amant.
6. Avec la point' de mes ciseaux
Je m'ouvrirai-z-une veine.
Je laisserai couler mon sang
Pour fair' ressiter mon amant.

The ballad tells poignantly the tragic story of a girl of fifteen whose father isolates her in a tower by the sea to prevent her lover from seeing her. She instructs him that she will light a torch at night as a signal that he can safely reach her. Around midnight, when her sweetheart sees the torch, he tries to reach her, but drowns in the attempt. When the girl looks down from her tower at morning, she sees his corpse; pathetically she wishes to revive him with her blood by opening one of her veins with scissors.

This song, which probably originated in the sixteenth century, spread widely throughout France and in French colonies. Since in some variants the name of the girl is "Léandre" and a work published in Nuremberg in 1540 gives the song the title of "Hero and Leander," "Le flambeau d'amour" may be remotely derived from the ancient Greek story.¹

A comic song with an extraordinary history is "Cadet Roussel," which was sung

for me in 1959 by Isom J. Fontenot, a sixty-five year old native of Mamou:

1. Cadet Roussel c'est un bon jeune homme.
Cadet Roussel c'est un vaillant bougre.
2. Cadet Roussel il a des chiens
Que le roi n'a pas des si bons.
Un aux lapins et l'autre si bête
Que quand on l'appelle il se sauve.
3. Cadet Roussel il a une habille
Que le roi n'a pas de si belle.
Elle est doublée de papier gris,
Elle est cousue de la ficelle.
Ah oui, vraiment.
4. Cadet Roussel il a des chevaux
Que le roi n'a pas des si bons.
Ils sont si gras que les os
Percent la selle.
Ah oui, vraiment.
5. Cadet Roussel il a-t-un clos
Que le roi n'a pas de si grand.
Il est si grand qu'il monte d'une face,
Il crache sur l'autre.
Ah oui, vraiment.
6. Cadet Roussel il a une chevelure
Que le roi n'a pas de si belle.
Chaque brin pour la couette,
Et l'autre pour le brin.
Ah oui, vraiment.
7. Cadet Roussel c'est un bon jeune homme.
Cadet Roussel c'est un vaillant bougre.
Cadet Roussel il a des chiens
Que le roi n'a pas des si bons.

The basic pattern of the song is to present first a mock expression of the grandeur of one of the hero's possessions, then to describe the same object in terms of its ridiculousness—a clever combination of overstatement and understatement. Cadet Roussel has such dogs that the king doesn't have any so good, but one is for rabbits and the other so crazy that he runs away when he is called; his beautiful suit is lined with grey paper and sewn with string; his horses, which are better than the king's, are so fat that their bones stick through the saddle; his field, bigger than the king's, is so large

that Cadet Roussel can stand on one side and spit on the other; he has a handsomer head of hair than the king's, one tuft for his pigtail and the other his head (literally each tuft for his pigtail, the other for his tuft—a confusion of text).

"Cadet Roussel" is a descendant of "La chanson de Jean de Nivelle," which was mentioned around the beginning of the sixteenth century in the *Farce des Deux Saveurs*. A century later it was part of the repertoire of the "Comedians Francais." According to Henri Davenson, the eighteenth century form of the words appeared around 1792, to be sung to a *contre-danse* melody of between 1780 and 1790. In the Paris of the Revolution and in the Empire, it was a fashionably popular song.²

Between 1801 and 1809 the actor Brunet performed a successful series of plays in which Cadet Roussel was the hero. During the White Terror, adapted to the times, this durable song served to rally the royalists of Provence. Agricol Perdiguer referred to it as (I translate) "the bloody air of Cadet Roussel," which made trapped patriots tremble.³

An example of a beautiful lyric (a song which is primarily concerned with expressing an emotion) is "Le bouquet de roses," which was sung for me by Alma Bartholomew, fifty-five years old, of Diamond, Louisiana, a small town about fifty miles due south of New Orleans. Mrs. Bartholomew, it is interesting to note, is a Negro French informant, part of an aristocratic mulatto group which prides itself on its French background and tends to be condescending toward other Negroes in the area who are the descendants of slaves who served English speaking masters. Typically, however, her grandchildren do not speak French.

1. En me promenant à l'ombrage,
Suivant l'ardeur du soleil,
Je m'aperçois par aventure,
La, ma belle, elle dormait
D'un profond sommeil.
Je m'suis approché d'elle.
2. Tout doucement, sans la reveiller,
J'ai mis mon bras dessous sa tête

Pour la servir d'oreiller,
De sur sa bouche merveille
Pris un doux baiser sans la reveiller.

3. Trois fois fait le tour du jardin,
J'ai cueilli in beau bouquet de roses;
Je l'ai mis dedans ses mains.
Par la fraîcheur de ces roses,
Ma belle elle se reveille;
C'était mon dessein.
4. Pendant que ma belle elle s'éveille,
A haute voix elle s'écrit:
"Grand Dieu, que je suis a monsaise!
Mon amant est auprès de moi,
A que le temps est peu durable,
Pour deux amants qui s'aiment
tendrement."

A male lover, walking in the shade of a garden, comes upon his sweetheart enveloped in a deep slumber. Gently, without awakening her he pillows her head on his arm and kisses her sweetly on her wonderful mouth. Then he gathers a beautiful bouquet of roses and slips it into her hands. As he planned, the scent of the flowers wakes her; she exclaims in delight at the fleeting moment of perfection.

An interesting example of the many changes which occur in folksongs in the course of several centuries of oral transmission is this drinking song, "L'oranger," recorded for me in 1957 by Caesar Vincent, seventy-four years old, of Abbeville.

1. En arrière de chez mon pere,
Il y a une oranger, le voilà!
- Refrain
Nous iron, nous boirons,
Nous tirerons les vins
Et nous les remplirons.
2. On était tellement chargé que les
branches
En tout chantaient le voilà!
3. Il part de branche en branche
Il choisit la plus belle, le voilà!
4. Le premier qu'elle aimé,
C'est le fils de l'avocat, le voilà!
5. Et on acheté une douzaine
Mais on a jamais payé, le violà.
6. Ils l'ont envoyé de chez la banque,
Et la banque était fermée, le voilà!

7. Ils m'ont envoyé chez l'avocat,
Et la fille de l'avocat, le voilà!
8. Et la fille de l'avocat,
Elle était tellement parlante, le voilà!
9. Je me moque de la banque,
La fille de l'avocat, le voilà!

The refrain is clear enough in its joyous, "We will go, we will drink, we will draw more wine and fill up (our glasses) again," but the rest of the text is confused. In better preserved French and French Canadian variants, there is a coherent story. An orange tree is bursting with fruit. The heroine of the song, a country girl, picks the ripe oranges and leaves the green ones. On her way to the market to sell her oranges she meets the son of the lawyer. The lawyer's son takes some oranges but does not pay her for them. When she protests, he suggests that she accompany him to his room, where his mother will pay for the oranges. Innocently trusting, the country girl goes to his room. He seizes her, throws her on the bed and seduces her.

"What will my mother say when she learns of this?" she asks.

1. Marguerite and Raoul d'Harcourt, *Chansons Folkloriques Francaises au Canada* (Quebec: 1956), Press Universitaires Laval, p.67.
2. Henrie Davenson, *Le Livre des Chansons* (Paris:1946), Editions de la Baconniere, p.572.
3. *Ibid.*
4. This central core of plot occurs in the composite critical text in George Doncieux, *Le Romancero Populaire de France* (Paris:1904), Emile Bouillon, pp.261-265.
5. *Ibid.*, p.262.

"You can tell her that it was the action of a lawyer," he replies.⁵

This song was already in existence by the middle of the sixteenth century as attested by its inclusion in manuscript collections. Some critics have interpreted "L'oranger" as a satiric attack on the duplicity and avarice of lawyers, but one of the most authoritative scholars in the field, George Doncieux, insisted that the ridicule was really directed against the gullibility of the country girl.⁴

In the above Louisiana variant according to the third stanza the picker of the fruit is male, but in the next stanza and the following ones, the central figure is female. Her being sent to collect from the bank at a time when it is closed fits in with the trickery of lawyers, but the introduction of a loquacious daughter of a lawyer, and the country girl's jeering at the bank and the daughter are evidently the results of misunderstanding key lines in the course of oral transmission.

"Le flambeau d'amour," "Cadet Roussel," "Le bouquet de roses," and "L'oranger" are typical of the rich ancient French tradition which is now on the brink of extinction in Louisiana.

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Minutes of the Thirty-fourth Annual Conference

By

ALICE ALBEN

Centenary College Library

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:

The Louisiana Library Association Executive Board met in the president's suite of the Hotel Frances, Monroe, Louisiana, at 8 P.M., March 23rd. The following members were present: Miss Jane Ellen Carstens, President; Miss Kate Wallach, 1st Vice-President; Miss Jewell Moore, 2nd Vice-President; Miss Willie Mae Seab, Treasurer; Miss Loma Knighten, Parliamentarian; Mrs. Rubie Hanks; Mrs. Alice Alben, Secretary.

The minutes were adopted as mailed in the corrected form.

Items of old business were then discussed. It was recommended that the Modisette Award Sub-Committee for Trustees re-examine their standards with the possibility of making revisions, and submitting these to the Board. Also discussed was the question of whether a policy on the disposition of convention surplus funds should be incorporated into the Manual and Code. It was decided to refrain from binding future board members and to have this decision made each year depending upon the amounts in the surplus fund and the need for contributions to projects of the association. To provide guiding principles for future board members the secretary was instructed to incorporate into the minutes the following suggestions:

Convention surplus funds should not be earmarked for future convention expenditures exclusively. They should be used for special projects of educational or professional value of benefit or to the credit of our association, its members or the library profession in general. As long as the scholarship goal of \$10,000 has not been reached, con-

tributions to the Scholarship Fund should be given preference to new projects.

The Treasurer's report was presented and accepted subject to the audit of the Auditing Committee. Reports of the Chairmen were heard and those of the standing committees were reviewed.

A letter from the Louisiana Commission on the Aging was read. The Board favored the appointment of a member of this association to the State Advisory Council.

Miss Wallach reported that the 1961 L.L.A. convention will be held in New Orleans with Headquarters at the Jung Hotel, March 16-18.

FIRST GENERAL SESSION:

Miss Carstens, President, declared the 34th annual convention of L.L.A. in session at 2 P.M. Thursday, March 24, 1960, in Cherokee Terrace of the Hotel Frances. She welcomed all present.

The invocation was by the Reverend Wave H. McFadden. Miss Carstens introduced the officers of the Association, the editor and business manager of the *Bulletin*. In the absence of the Mayor, Mr. Haynes L. Harkey, Jr., extended greetings from the city of Monroe, with Miss Wallach responding.

In his keynote address Mr. Theodore Waller, Vice-President of The Grolier Society and Americana Corporation, spoke on National Library Week, now three years old, and its publicity through the press, radio and T.V. He said there is no question of its year around effectiveness for libraries, in increasing the reading habits of individuals and bringing them together with books.

L.L.A.'s representative to A.L.A., John Hall Jacobs, reporting on the midwinter meeting said that the high point of the meeting was the discussion of the new headquarters building. He said he hoped this association would make a token contribution of \$100.00 toward the building.

Mrs. Florrinell F. Morton, 1st Vice-President and President-elect of the Southwestern Library Association, announced the biennial conference in Tucson, Arizona, October 27-29, with headquarters at the Pioneer Hotel.

The following officers were elected for 1960-1961:

President Miss Kate Wallach
1st Vice-President . . . Mrs. Maud M. Bentrup
2nd Vice-President . . . Miss Ruth Lefkovits
Secretary Mrs. Auril W. Phelps
Treasurer Miss Margaret Ruckert
Parliamentarian . . . Mrs. Marguerite Hanchey
A.L.A. Representative . . . Dr. E. D. Johnson
S.L.A. Representatives . . . Dr. Ruth Baldwin

Miss Lucille Arceneaux
Miss Mary Louise Giraud

Mrs. Bentrup introduced the Exhibitors to the Association.

SECOND GENERAL SESSION:

The Second General Session opened Thursday evening at 8, Miss Jewell Moore presiding. She read greetings from Benjamin E. Powell, President of A.L.A., and from Wade O. Martin, Jr., Secretary of State. She welcomed the new librarians in the state and introduced the officers-elect.

The keynote address was given by Mrs. Frances Lander Spain, President-elect of A.L.A., whose subject was the theme of the convention, "Books—The Golden Key." As a children's librarian she centered her talk around children's books, although she said the permanent qualities of all good books are universal, as creativeness, integrity, imagination and good style.

After the address, Miss Frances Flanders, Convention Chairman, invited all to the informal reception honoring new members at the Lotus Club as guests of the GerstenSlager Company.

SECTIONAL MEETINGS:

The College and Reference Section met in the Fine Arts Building on the campus of Northeast Louisiana State College with the Chairman, Mrs. Maud Bentrup, presiding. Mr. Theodore Waller spoke on "A Publisher's View of College Library Opportunities." Coffee and a short business session concluded the meeting.

Mrs. Pauline Parker presided at the Louisiana Association of School Librarians. Mrs. Spain spoke on "Reading Guidance" and Mrs. Lucille Carnahan on "The New School Library Standards." A short business meeting followed.

The Public Library Section met in the Ouachita Parish Public Library with Miss Doris Lessel presiding. The film, "Libraries for Louisiana," was shown with comments by Miss Sarah Jones. This was followed by a short business meeting.

The Trustees' Section met at 2:30 P.M. in the Ouachita Parish Public Library with Mr. Murphy Tannehill presiding. Mrs. Raymond Young, President, American Association of Library Trustees, talked on "What Did You Bring?" Mrs. Weldon Lynch reported on the A.L.A. meeting. A business meeting concluded the program.

AWARDS LUNCHEON:

The Awards Luncheon was held at twelve noon at the Bayou DeSiard Country Club with Mrs. Ella V. Aldrich Schwing as toastmistress. Dr. Essae M. Culver presented the Modisette Awards to the following: James Madison, trustee of the library at Bastrop, the outstanding trustee; Vernon Parish Public Library, Miss Margie Lynch, Librarian, and Peter Anderson, Library Board Chairman, for the most progress during the year in public libraries; W. W. Lewis Junior High School, Sulphur, Miss Jean Royston, Librarian, J. B. Mount, Principal, the outstanding school library. Mr. Donald M. Ewing, Associate Editor, *Shreveport Times*, talked on "The Newspaper and the Library." He said that the perfect library would have on its shelves everything ever written,

(Continued on Page 66)

L. L. A. BULLETIN

News of Libraries and Librarians

By

MRS. EDITH P. TAYLOR

Lafourche Parish Library

College:

Centenary College Library was awarded a grant of \$500 through ACRL from funds given by the U. S. Steel Foundation. The grant is to be used in the purchase of American Novels, 1800-1914. Mrs. Marguerite M. Saunders is the Science Librarian succeeding Mrs. Shirley Anders. She is a graduate of the Library School at the University of North Carolina.

Mrs. Florrinell F. Morton was a member of a panel discussion on Books, Libraries, and Civilization held at the L.S.U. Medical School in New Orleans under the joint sponsorship of the Medical School and LSUNO as a part of the LSU Centennial Celebration. She served as consultant for a conference on library education in Emporia, Kansas, under the sponsorship of the Library School of Kansas State Teachers College with the cooperation of the Library Education Division of ALA. New officers of the LSU Library School Alumni Association are: Mrs. Dorothy B. Skau, President; Miss Ruth Nesom, Vice-President; and Mrs. Eunice H. Cotton, Secretary-Treasurer. Mrs. Winifred Wilkerson, Jan. '59 graduate of the Library School, has accepted an appointment to the Science and Technology Division of the Library of Congress, having completed her six months internship in its Recruiting Project for outstanding Library School graduates. Miss Pearl Gondrella, B.S. '60, received two awards at the LSU Centennial Honors Day Convocation. One was a certificate given by her social sorority, Alpha Lambda Delta, as one of its seniors who had maintained a 2.5 or better average for the previous seven semesters. The other was the Woman's Faculty Club's Award, which is given each year to an undergraduate woman student who shows promise of creative or scholarly achievement in the field of a retired club

member selected to be honored. For the 1960 Award the field of Librarianship was chosen to honor Professor Emeritus Margaret Herdman.

Eugene Watson, Librarian of Northwestern State College, will attend the summer session of Columbia University; and Robert Cain, Documents Librarian, will be enrolled in the University of Chicago summer quarter. Miss Nan Floyd, Librarian of Bastrop High School, and Mrs. Leola Hunter Loftin, Librarian of Martin High School, will serve on the summer staff.

Published by Scarecrow Press, the second edition of "Communication, An Introduction to the history of the alphabet, writing, printing, books and libraries," by Dr. Elmer D. Johnson, director of the Stephens Memorial Library, SLI, is now off the press.

Public:

The State Library has had many distinguished visitors: Mr. John G. Lorenz, Director of the Library Services Branch, Office of Education, U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare; Mrs. Anis Duff, author and associate editor of Viking Press, who spoke on the topic "Whatsoever Things Are True" at an Open House in the Library; Mr. Hawthorne Daniel, author of many books and now obtaining material for a book on the effect of the Library Services Act on rural library development; and Dr. Ahmed Mansoori, Iran, Professor of French and Librarian of the University of Shiraf. Groups visiting or holding meetings there included the LSU Library School; Francis T. Nicholls Chapter Teen-age Librarians' Association; Baton Rouge Library Club and student groups from Brusly, Lutcher, and Eunice. The Talking Book Service provided for the blind is described in detail in the October '59 issue of *Louisiana Welfare*. Mr. James S. Cookston, Director of the Recruit-

ing Project, spoke at the Eleventh District PTA Spring Conference in Baton Rouge and the Second District Conference in Reserve; Vocational Emphasis Day at Louisiana College; Brusly High School Library Club meeting; Redemptorist High School Career Day; Istrouma High School; Student Teacher Association at Dominican College and at the Northwestern College Area Career Day.

The city of Vinton has promised to give the Calcasieu Parish Library the lot on which to build the Branch Library scheduled for construction in 1961.

The Cameron Parish library tax election carried by an overwhelming majority, both in popular votes and assessed valuation.

Dr. Ashton Robins has been appointed to the East Baton Rouge Parish Library Board. The long-awaited North Baton Rouge Branch Library has its own building at 3301 Plank Road. The staff includes Mrs. Lois Clement, Librarian, Mrs. Genie Eilers, Mrs. Sue Barber, Mrs. Elena Whitehead, Mrs. Patricia Lamonica and Mr. John Griggs. At a recent meeting of the City Parish Council Miss Caroline Nelson received a pin in recognition of ten years of service; Mrs. Genie Eilers, Mrs. Margaret Gueymard, and Mrs. Tillie Schenker were awarded pins for twenty years of service. New staff members include Miss Frances Fontana, Mrs. Betty Birchfield, and Mrs. Mildred Smith. After a survey conducted by the Public Administration Service the salary scales of library classified employees were recently raised—with no employee complaints.

The East Carroll Parish Library has moved into a larger building providing about three times more floor space and housing for the bookmobile.

The Northeast Louisiana Regional Library meeting is scheduled for May 18 in Winnboro with the Franklin Parish Library as host. The Jackson Parish Library Demonstration with Miss Shirley Brother, Librarian, will be welcomed as a new member.

Mrs. Pauline Bowers has been employed temporarily to replace Mrs. Lucille Champagne, who is on leave of absence from the Iberville Parish Library.

The formal opening of the Jefferson Plaza

Multi-Lingual and Reference Annex was held April 12, according to Mr. Charles Wagner, Jefferson Parish Library Administrator. Books in 26 languages are contained in the collection. Mrs. Alice Savery is Branch Manager. Mr. Wagner recently conducted an informal survey of California and Arizona libraries. Charles Daniel has joined the staff as reference librarian.

Mrs. Edith P. Taylor, Librarian of the Lafourche Parish Library, has resigned. Mrs. Florette F. Porche, Assistant Librarian, has been named to succeed her. Miss Melanie Oliver has joined the staff as clerical assistant.

Mr. James Madison, Chairman, Morehouse Parish Library Board, was the recipient of the Modisette Award for the Outstanding Trustee of Louisiana in 1959. Mr. George Orr was recently appointed to the Board succeeding Mrs. Hadley Leavell.

Mrs. C. M. Strauss, Vice-Chairman of the Ouachita Parish Public Library Board, is the newly elected chairman of the Trustees of the 5th Congressional District. Miss Frances Flanders, Librarian, has been asked to serve as Library Consultant for the Washington County Library soon to be constructed in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Miss Bernita Barrios has been employed as bookmobile driver to replace Mrs. Florence Johnson, who was promoted to clerical assistant at the main branch at Nairn in Plaquemines Parish. The demonstration period for the Library has ended and the Police Jury has appropriated funds for operation until an election can be held.

Sandra Caro, LSU student, will join the St. Mary Parish Library Staff this summer.

Miss Inez Boone, Shreve Memorial Librarian, attended the Louisiana Adult Education Association Conference in New Orleans in April.

The J. O. Modisette Award for outstanding progress in public libraries was made to the Vernon Parish Library for the second consecutive year. Present to accept the Award were Mr. Peter S. Anderson, Board President, and Miss Margie Lynch, Librarian. Also attending were Mrs. Troy Hines,

(Continued on Page 69)

Book Review

The Story of the Original Dixieland Jazz Band, by H. O. Brunn. Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University Press, 1960. \$5.00.

No quotation could be more aptly applied to jazz in New Orleans (and the State of Louisiana) than the oldie, "A prophet is not without honor, save in his own country, and in his own house." That is, it was applicable up to the moment the Louisiana State University Press decided to publish Mr. Brunn's and Mr. LaRocca's combined effort. The book is one of the few indigenous works which has not been gobbled up by some other University Press, or by a national publisher.

We are indeed pleased that our own great State University has decided to desist placing jazz in the category of the stepchild—who despite its legitimacy has been kept chained in the cellar.

This book has a definite place in the library of every jazz lover and historian in the country. Up to now, most jazz historians have over emphasized the Negro's contribution to our new art form. At the same time, they have either completely bypassed the whites' contribution, or barely mentioned it.

Aficionados will be able to recall that whatever mention has been made of the "white phase," it has been limited to the stories of the Austin Gang, Bix Beiderbeck, Eddie Condon, Wild Bill Davidson, Phil Napoleon and several other "yankee" white groups. The part which white New Orleans musicians have played is minimized.

This will be the first time that a white New Orleans band has been dignified by a complete unfolding of their careers, and an honest effort made to evaluate their efforts.

Of such great outfits as "Papa" Jack Laine's "Reliance Band," the New Orleans Rhythm Kings, Tom Brown's Band from Dixieland, "Happy" Shilling's and Fisher's Brass Bands, practically nothing has been said!

A special value of the book lies in the chronological unfolding of recording dates, the dates certain "evergreen" tunes were composed, and the relation of these musical developments to the mores of the times and world wide events. These are most interestingly brought out starting a little before 1917, when their celebrated "First Jazz Recording" swept the country. The unfolding continues until the time when the band decided to call it quits, and a good deal past this milepost.

As far as Mr. Brunn has gone, he has done an excellent job. But it seems to us that he has not used up the tremendous storehouse of priceless material which Mr. LaRocca possesses. Either that, or Mr. LaRocca did not give him access to everything. It is strange, too, that a damyankee should be selected to write the book which Mr. LaRocca was so jealously anxious to see in print before he left this world. Is it because he distrusted *all* Southerners? Or just New Orleanians?

We are sure that Mr. Brunn ran into many impedimenta while collecting the material for this book, which probably accounts for his "rolling with the punch" or tactfully avoiding distasteful issues.

In September/October, 1955, the New Orleans Jazz Club official magazine, "*The Second Line*," dedicated an entire issue to the Original Dixieland Jazz Band. Each of the living musicians contributed their own story, and no one consulted the other. Mr. LaRocca was invited to contribute his story, but failed to answer the request. Perhaps he was waiting to tell his story in its entirety. We don't know. But each of the others wrote at length on their own experiences.

It is remarkable how incidents and experiences jibed very faithfully with the entire group, but not always with the story which Mr. Brunn has written about LaRocca. There is agreement with the story in the book of about 90%. But a very notable variation in the other 10%.

Over the years, the ODJB has been subjected to much criticism by music critics and

musicologists. Mr. Brunn does a fine job of rebuttal. However, he lengthens this out a bit too long. Moreover, he uses this phase of his book to over-emphasize the importance of LaRocca's horn. Prior writings have regarded Larry Shields' clarinet work as outstanding, while both Edwards' and Christian's trombone efforts rate with the very best. And Tony Spargo still is sought after as one of the best dixieland drummers in the business today. That Mr. LaRocca fitted into the scheme of things with the ODJB is undeniable. But it is hard to understand how Mr. Brunn would have us believe that he was far and away the best musician in the bunch.

Similar New Orleans bands had existed for many years. The 5-man personnel had been used almost routinely. In the earlier days, they always had a "leader" and/or "a manager." No matter who these men were in the band, and no matter which instrument they played, it has been customary from time immemorial for the cornetist or trumpet man to "stomp off" the band. Either Mr. Brunn is not aware of this routine musical occurrence, or he uses it in an attempt to focus attention on Mr. LaRocca as the *real* leader of the band. And this does not jibe with the material sent us by the individual members of the ODJB when we were preparing the September/October, 1955, issue of *"The Second Line."*

Despite this seeming tirade against certain phases of the book, we do not hesitate to recommend it. It is a *m-u-s-i-c* in every jazz student's library. It has been a noble attempt by Mr. Brunn to handle one of the most difficult assignments of reporting for the literature of jazz. How he ever came up with such a smooth sailing volume in spite of the problems we feel sure he encountered along the way is nothing short of miraculous. We do not regard this work on the Original Dixieland Jazz Band as *THE* definitive story about this group, but we readily admit that it is the best that has been written so far.

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L. L. A. BULLETIN

Reviews of Records

New Orleans Jazz. Recorded and edited by Harry Oster and Richard Allen. Distributed by LSU Press. \$5.95.

Jazz enthusiasts will welcome Billie and De De Peierce's return to health and vigor as well as the return of true New Orleans jazz. Although New Orleans is the cradle of jazz, the lover of pure jazz will find the shrine almost empty of the best tradition. It is with delight that we welcome this recording of jazz at its truest and best.

With the scarcity of authentic old jazz, these examples of the music of a bygone era are important historical and cultural documents as well as excellent performances of some of the most appealing numbers in the jazz repertoire. Here is the result of folk expression in an urban environment. We hear the product of the fusion of the blues (St. Louis Infirmary), French folk songs (Eh La-Bas), work songs (John Henry), Spanish tunes (Peanut Vendor) and the popular songs of the Mass media (Some of These Days and Mama Don't 'Low).

Billie Peierce's full-throated blues shouting style is in the best tradition of Bessie Smith and her vigorous exciting piano playing represents a fusion of barrelhouse, blues and boogie with the ebullience of ragtime.

De De Peierce plays the trumpet as it should be played to make one irresistibly pat his foot to the universal appeal of jazz.

Collected by Harry Oster and Richard Allen and recorded by the Folk Lyric Recording Company, the record is distributed by the LSU Press.

Folksongs of the Louisiana Acadians. Recorded and edited by Harry Oster. Distributed by LSU Press. \$5.95.

Folksongs of the Louisiana Acadians were collected and recorded in Grand Mamou, the center of Louisiana Acadian culture, by Dr. Harry Oster of the English faculty of L.S.U.

SUMMER, 1960

Along with the record comes a brochure telling of the history of the Acadians in Grand Mamou. But most interesting of all, it gives the words of the songs in French as well as their translation into English with a brief description of the singer and accompaniment used for each particular folksong.

The traditional instruments are used, such as the Cajun accordian (which has only two chords and can play in only one key), the fiddle, the now rare triangle or spoons, the guitar and sometimes the harmonica.

Side A which contains songs of the Nineteenth Century and After shows the influence of country and western music on the lives and culture of the community.

Side B which is entitled The Eighteenth Century and Earlier contains songs of the pure folk style which have remained in this form since the days of the earliest settlers.

Distributed by the LSU Press, this is a valuable contribution of the Louisiana Folklore Society to the culture and heritage of Louisiana.

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PRESIDENT-ELECT'S REPORT—

(Continued from Page 45)

persons and other library groups. The executive secretary could be one of our own members who may be either a retired librarian or a non-working librarian. The funds for this type of service would have to come from annual income and not from savings of the past which will be tapped for next year's trial period. We are subsidizing the *Bulletin* with about \$1,000.00 and our office expenses are about another \$1,000.00. It seems that we do need to raise the dues, unless somebody can come up with another suggestion on how to keep going, without additional funds.

Let me urge each of you to write me about any Association or library matters which you may have on your mind and I shall faithfully submit your questions and suggestions to the consideration of the Board for action. It is your association, and the officers are there to serve you. You could help us in expressing your preferences for committee assignments. Working with others on common interest problems, will be the best way of getting to know each other.

The next convention will be held from March 16-18, 1961, at the Jung Hotel in New Orleans. Miss Becky Skau will be your Convention Chairman and Mr. John Goudeau your Program Chairman.

I thank you for your confidence in electing me to the highest office which you have to confer, and promise you that I shall work with you and for you, with the able assistance from the Board members and that we shall strive to keep the LLA as strong as our predecessors in office have molded it.

CONFERENCE MINUTES—

(Continued from Page 60)

printed, or otherwise published. The library is not a censorship agency nor a propaganda bureau for one side of any subject. Dr. Shirley Stephenson spoke on National Library Week state plans and introduced members of the Louisiana committee.

BETWEEN MEETINGS:

From 3:30 to 5:30 open house was held at the Monroe and West Monroe Branches, Ouachita Parish Public Library, with the Boards of Control as hostesses.

BOOK DINNER:

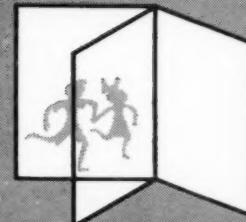
The Book Dinner was at the Paragon Club Friday evening at 8 P.M., Miss Wallowach, toastmistress. She introduced Dr. Hudson Strode, Professor of English, University of Alabama, who spoke on "A Key to Writing and Writers." As a successful author and teacher of creative writing he was well qualified to give advice to aspiring writers.

No Louisiana Literary Award was given since the committee felt that no book had appeared worthy of the award.

THIRD GENERAL SESSION:

The Third General Session convened at 9 A.M. Saturday, Miss Carstens presiding. Section Chairmen and Chairmen-elect were introduced. New chairmen are Dr. Elmer D.

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Johnson, College and Reference; Miss Adele Bodker, Public Library; Miss Sue Hefley, Louisiana Association of School Librarians; Mrs. Weldon Lynch, Trustees.

Dr. Burton W. Adkinson, Head of the Science Information Service of the National Science Foundation and President, Special Libraries Association, spoke about the varied activities of the Foundation since it began actual operation a little over eight years ago.

The Treasurer's report was read by Miss Seab.

The suggestion by Mr. Jacobs that a token contribution of \$100.00 be made toward the building fund of the new headquarters building of A.L.A. was called to the attention of the members. Miss Sallie Farrell moved that the L.L.A. contribute \$100.00 to the building fund, seconded by Miss Jewell Moore. Considerable discussion followed with amendments to and substitutions for the original motion. Finally Miss Farrell moved that L.L.A. contribute a minimum of \$100.00 and not to exceed \$500.00 toward the new headquarters building of A.L.A. the exact amount to be determined by the Executive Board after a study of the monies in the Treasury has been made; seconded by Miss Moore and carried.

Dr. Eugene P. Watson moved that the Executive Board, at its discretion, withdraw funds from the treasury of L.L.A. to make this contribution to the headquarters building of A.L.A., provided that \$300.00 shall come from the Sustaining Fund; seconded by Miss Cazayoux and carried.

Miss Wallach reported 827 members as of March 26th. Mrs. W. W. Ward reported a registration of 351 for the convention.

The following resolutions were duly adopted as they were read by Mrs. Gene Hardin, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee: thanks and appreciation to all who contributed to the success of the conference; that the efforts of the National Civil War Centennial Commission, Louisiana Historical Association, Louisiana Landmark Society, Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society, North, Central and Southwest Louisiana Historical Associations, and numerous other historical, patriotic and civic groups to

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locate and deposit book and manuscript materials in libraries, be recognized and encouraged by the librarians of the state; sympathy to the families of deceased members, Mr. William Carroll Bennett, and Miss Esther Claire Robertson; thanks to Mr. Wade Martin, Jr., Secretary of State, for his continuing interest in supplying state documents to libraries.

Dr. Watson, Chairman of the Committee on Indexing Louisiana Magazines, reported the index to *Louisiana Schools* completed; also the index to last ten volumes of *Louisiana Conservationist*. The indexing was done by Dr. Elmer Johnson. *Louisiana Municipal Review* will be indexed next.

The report of the L.L.A. Membership Status Committee was given by Miss Hefley, Chairman. This Committee was asked to consider:

1. The possibility of establishing life memberships in the Association.
2. Honorary memberships.
3. Recognition of retirement.
4. Dues.

Life memberships were not recommended for which there is a payment. The committee felt that it was desirable to award honorary memberships on an honorary basis to active librarians for distinguished service. If life memberships are established the committee recommends favorable consideration of this type. For retirement, they referred to the proposed dues schedule of the Expansion Committee and, if accepted, this would recognize retirement through the *Bulletin*. Comment on dues was delayed until the report of the Expansion Committee was given.

The report of the L.L.A. Expansion Committee was given by Miss Debora Abramson, Chairman. This committee was charged with the following outline of duties:

1. To study the possibility of establishing a "headquarters" for the Association.
2. To consider the advisability of appointing an Executive Secretary on a part-time basis.
3. To consider the advisability of raising dues in order to defray the cost of the above.
4. Sending out a monthly newsletter to supplement the L.L.A. *Bulletin* as a means of disseminating library news.

Recommendations were the employment of a part-time Executive Secretary and the following alternative means of financing the services of a secretary: 1. Raise dues, or 2. Adopt a scale of dues based on earnings of individuals and budgets of institutions.

Miss Cazayoux moved that we establish honorary life memberships with the procedure to be further studied by a committee. Motion seconded by Miss Ruth Neeson. After some discussion Dr. Watson offered the following substitute motion: That the present Committee on Membership Status be continued for another year to consider the qualifications for establishing honorary life memberships; substitute motion accepted by Miss Cazayoux and Miss Neeson; carried.

Kenneth E. Toombs moved that a part-time Executive Secretary be hired by L.L.A. and that the duties, salary and scheduled time of such a person be determined by the Exec-

utive Board; seconded by Miss Farrell; carried.

Miss Hefley moved that the L.L.A. Expansion Committee be retained for the coming year to study the dues structure and that the present setup of dues be continued for another year; seconded by Miss Cazayoux; carried.

Mr. James Dyson gave the report of the Union Catalog Distribution Committee in the absence of Miss Norma Durand, Chairman. Seventy-three pre-publication subscriptions for copies of the Louisiana Union Catalog at \$30.00 each were received. The Executive Board approved the publication of 100 copies. The present committee will continue until the completion of the work.

The President announced that our organization has been declared tax-exempt and that an application for tax exemption of the scholarship fund contributions is pending. She expressed her thanks to the Convention Chairmen and to all who had made the conference such a success.

Mrs. Morton moved that we adjourn.

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NEWS OF LIBRARIES, LIBRARIANS—

(Continued from Page 62)

Messrs. John T. Cupit and Otis Welch, Board members; and Mrs. Margie Rowzee, Mrs. Carlene Westmoreland, Mrs. Jessie Inglis and Miss Shirley Morse, Staff members.

Washington Parish Library Headquarters and Franklinton Branch were moved to 1025 Dobson Street in Franklinton. The building of cement blocks and brick with tile floor, has approximately 2,700 square feet of floor space. The Poplar Branch in Bogalusa was enlarged to almost twice its size. Mrs. Thelma Dixon, Librarian, met in Ferriday with the committee who will compile a handbook for La. Library Trustees.

Attending the opening of the Jackson Parish Library Demonstration in Jonesboro were Mrs. Esther R. Shinn, Librarian, Mrs. James G. Baird, Assistant Librarian, and Warren E. Dietrich, President of the Webster Parish Library Board. Mrs. Shinn and Mrs. D. W. Stewart, Jr., Board member, attended the 5th Congressional District meeting in Farmerville in April.

Mrs. Rubie M. Hanks, Winn Parish Librarian, was designated ALA's representative at the Regional Meeting held in New Orleans, sponsored by the American Medical Association and the State Medical Associations of Arkansas, Texas, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

School:

Reports on National Library Week observances were received from school librarians throughout the State. Miss Ruth Neson, Librarian at Belle Chasse High School, reported two successful television programs presented by members of the Library Club and other students. At Belle Rose Elementary School, Mrs. Ruth W. Shepard, Librarian, reported that bookmark, book jacket and cartoon contests were conducted. An assembly program, Open House at the Library, talks by students to the St. Martin members, book review and poster contests Parish Police Jurors and to the School Board marked the observance at Cecilia High School, according to Mrs. Jeanne B. Potier,

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Librarian. A unique observance in Bossier Parish was a survey made among the faculty of the Waller Elementary School to determine some of their favorite books of childhood and Mrs. Ruth Colvin, Librarian, remarks that this was a hit with the students. A taped radio program "Mr. Popper's Penguins" and the local paper published the results of a survey on recreational reading which asked for the favorite books read by students, published at Lake Providence High School, Mrs. Thomas L. Smith, bookmark distribution, book reviews, and mobile making were part of the activities of the Pollock High School, Miss Helen Lindsey, Librarian. Mrs. Marie C. Sorci, Librarian of St. Bernard High School, received funds for rebinding library books as a result of a drive by the Mothers' Club. In Winnsboro, two student reports were published in the local paper, a newsletter was issued, and students wore miniature globes bearing the NLW slogan which were made by one of the English teachers, reports Miss Zelma C. Berry, Librarian of the High School there.

NECROLOGY

1920

ESTHER CLAIRE ROBERTSON

1959

Esther Claire Robertson, formerly Assistant Librarian at the Jefferson Parish Library, died on October 4, 1959. Miss Robertson was born in Baton Rouge on May 11, 1920. She graduated from Baker High School and held B.S., M.A., and B.S. in L.S. degrees from LSU. She taught school in Lafourche and St. Charles Parishes before entering the library profession. During her library school days she worked in the LSU Library as a trainee and then was employed in the Jefferson Parish Library system until shortly before her death. Esther Claire Robertson was one of those rare persons with high ideals who lived by them even at the cost of personal sacrifice.

1917

WILLIAM CARROLL BENNETT

1960

William Carroll Bennett, Order Librarian at Northwestern State College, died of a heart attack on January 30, 1960. Though born in Texas, most of his life was spent in Louisiana. He was a graduate of Mansfield High School, Louisiana College, and the LSU Library School; and had taken additional courses at the Universities of Chicago and Texas. His first position was with the Historical Records Survey in New Orleans. After serving in the Army, he spent five years in San Antonio operating his own bookstore. He then worked in the San Antonio Public Library and spent a year at the University of Texas. Upon his return to Louisiana, he worked for one year at the Rapides Parish Library before joining the staff at Northwestern in 1953. Mr. Bennett was an active LLA member and will be missed by members of the Association.

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